

OUR REVIEWER'S OPINION OF SOME BOOKS OF THE DAY

Miss Frances Aymer Matthews,
Author of "My Lady Peggy
Goes to Town," Has
Written a New
Novel.

VIRGINIANS IN HISTORY

Another Instalment of the John
P. Branch Papers—"The Silent
Places," by Stewart Edward
White—A Peep Into the June
Magazines.

FAMELA CONGREVE. By Frances Aymer Matthews. Published by Dodd, Mead and Company. For sale by the Bell Book and Stationery Company.

A year or two ago "My Lady Peggy Goes to Town," published by Miss Matthews, was received with acclaim, dramatized and became immensely popular. That book of romantic adventure and episode had a dash and sparkle about it that immediately captured the popular fancy. But neither this first publication nor "A Little Tragedy at Tien Tsin" has any of the literary quality which may be claimed for Pamela Congreve in point of dramatic strength and interest in composition.

It may be urged, and with partial justice, that the book is extravagant rather than realistic. The answer to such a criticism is that the story is one written in an extravagant period, when roistering English blades were ever ready to draw their swords, and when the triumph of the stage rendered the queens of the London stage the objects of the wildest devotion from Englishmen of rank and station.

The author of "Pamela Congreve" has shown much art from opening to closing chapter in the make-up of her book. She has brought Pamela, a girl upon her literary stage in a fashion that bespeaks for her a place in the reader's favor at once. Her beauty, and the hint of former tragedy and grief in her life history, her wit and talent, render her a favorite from the start.

The scenes in the book that suggest the possibilities of successful dramatization are plainly apparent to even the most inexperienced eye. Pamela, dancing and singing on the stage, the Green Shippers to the music of Hawthorne's violin; Pamela turning Earl Charteris's dagger against himself and fleeing from the thought of possible murder done in the Green Shippers Inn to the London stage; Pamela, the adored of London gallants in the character of the "Quaker's Daughter," Pastorella, and of Captain Mearns in "Marborough's Man"; Pamela, helping Harlowe to save the life of a little English lad on the sands at Cleve; Pamela, dancing at Christmas Eve in Harlowe House and afterward saving the Harlowe jewels from the pilfering fingers of the Earl of Charteris, at the sacrifice of her own name; Pamela, unsmilingly Charteris's dinner party given in her own house; Pamela, in man's attire, saving the Duke of Harlowe's life from the foul practice of Charteris; Pamela, saved from Charteris in the smugler's den beside the sea, and, finally, fair Pamela, in her wedding eve, sitting in Sweet Acre Garden beside her lover, Harlowe.

The minor characters, especially that of the poet, Surrey Beauregard, are well depicted and the style of the book is very clever and characteristic of the author, in its epigrammatic flavor and its strong spice of wit and lively humor.

A LITTLE TRAGEDY AT TIEN TSIN. By Frances Aymer Matthews. Published by Robert Grier Cooke. For sale in Richmond by the Bell Book and Stationery Company.

The title story of this book first appeared in Harper's Magazine. It has since been translated into several different languages and has been dramatized. Robert Loraine has been starring in it in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and New York, taking the role of Ah Chang, the vindictive and heartless Chinaman. There has been considerable speculation among the many readers of the book as to what the letters S. M. T. G. referred to by the author "H. Remembrance," in the dedication, might happen to be. It seems that they were those of Mrs. Philip Dunbar Gulager, the only daughter of the late George Francis Train. Mrs. Gulager, who died last year, was the author of "A Little Tragedy at Tien Tsin," which was published in book form, was a cousin of Miss Matthews, the author, and that naturally brought them much together. Aside from any ties of kinship the two were very closely associated together. One of the author's deepest regrets was that Mrs. Gulager could not have lived to see the success of the book in which she was so heartily interested. Of course, everybody remembers "My Lady Peggy Goes to Town," and "My Lady Peggy," some of Miss Matthews' other creations, Grace George and Robert Loraine having taken the leading roles in the latter, which won the hearts of so many people. The second story in the Tien Tsin book is entitled "Alles Same." This appeared in the Atlantic Monthly. The publication of this book has called forth an expression of interest from all parts of the country—in letters and otherwise.

In regard to the general format of the book, the New York Evening Post may be said to voice a general sentiment when it says: "In matters of printing, binding and colored frontispiece, the volume is one to be admired absolutely." To people going away for a summer of rest and pleasure, the book should prove to be a delightful source of entertainment.

THE SILENT PLACES. By Stewart Edward White. Published by McClure, Phillips and Company, New York. For sale by the Bell Book and Stationery Company.

The Canadian forest, the life and occupations of the frontiersman, the long, white, snow-covered stretches of the frozen north possess always an intense interest for the reader when they are touched upon in narration by the skillful writer, who knows how to heighten their effect with the sombre strength of a powerful imagination.

Mr. White's latest book has an added element of fascination in a man chase the file many of its pages and is full of the thrill that the chase always inspires. The incredible cunning of the pursued, turning, twisting, doubling on his trail, bringing all of his trained alertness and the cunning of his hunters; the dogged, tireless perseverance of the pursuers, who held grimly to their enemy's trail, even until they went down into the grim clutches of starvation and death, brings into consciousness a deep realization of the endurance, determination and courage that are the predominant traits in the life of the voyager.

The romance of the book is found in the love story that is revealed in an Indian maiden's love for the ending of the girl's life in the white, winding snow-sheet of northern snows, but its tragedy and its pitifulness arise the reader in the face through the remaining book pages.

The story as a whole is one of extraordinary power, depth and splendid imagery.

AMERICAN RENAISSANCE. By J. Wheelock Dow, Architect. Published by William T. Comstock, of New York. For sale by the Bell Book and Stationery Company.

In taking up the subject of architecture in this country the author has endeavored to show that by adaptation of the various styles to the needs of our people there has been developed a special style which he terms American Renaissance.

Published by Everett Waddey Company, Richmond, Va. Price, \$1.00.

In his introduction Professor Dodd says: "The following articles and reprints are herewith given to the public in the hope that they may add something to our scant information on the history of Virginia during the first half of the nineteenth century."

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"The Quality of Mercy." Harvey W. Scott contributes an article on the "Quality of Mercy" in the June Atlantic. It is a study of the "Quality of Mercy" in the life of the Virginian. The article is a study of the "Quality of Mercy" in the life of the Virginian. The article is a study of the "Quality of Mercy" in the life of the Virginian.

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POEMS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

Whatever your occupation may be, and however crowded your hours with affairs, do not fail to secure at least a few minutes every day for refreshment of your inner life with a bit of poetry.—Prof. Charles Eliot Norton.

No. 196.

The Blue and the Gray.

BY FINCH.

Francis Miles Finch, although a jurist of distinction, has from his youth been a typical poet of note. He was born in Ithaca, N. Y., in 1827, was class poet at the time of his graduation from Yale in 1849, and has been successful in the law school at Cornell University. In 1855 he wrote a poem on the revolutionary patriot, Nathan Hale, and read it before a Yale alumni association in the autumn of 1857. His inspiration was never slipping to the effect that on the last preceding Memorial Day the women of Columbus, Miss., had impartially placed the floral tributes upon the graves of Confederates and Northern soldiers alike. The floral tributes upon the graves of Confederates and Northern soldiers alike. The floral tributes upon the graves of Confederates and Northern soldiers alike. The floral tributes upon the graves of Confederates and Northern soldiers alike.



By the flow of the inland river,
Whence the fleets of iron have fled,
Where the blades of the grave-grass quiver
Asleep are the ranks of the dead;
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment-day;
Under the one, the Blue,
Under the other, the Gray.

These in the robings of glory,
Those in the gloom of defeat,
All with the battle-blood gory,
In the dusk of eternity meet;
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment-day;
Under the laurel, the Blue,
Under the willow, the Gray.

From the silence of sorrowful hours
The desolate mourners go,
Lovingly laden with flowers
Alike for the friend and the foe;
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment-day;
Under the roses, the Blue,
Under the lilies, the Gray.

So with an equal splendor
The morning sun-rays fall,
With a touch impartially tender,
On the blossoms blooming for all;
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment-day;
'Broidered with gold, the Blue,
Mellowed with gold, the Gray.

So, when the summer calleth,
On forest and field of grain,
With an equal murmur falleth
The cooling drip of the rain;
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment-day;
Wet with the rain, the Blue,
Wet with the rain, the Gray.

Sadly, but not with upbraiding,
The generous deed was done;
In the storm of the years that are fading,
No braver battle was won;
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment-day;
Under the blossoms, the Blue,
Under the garlands, the Gray.

No more shall the war-cry sever,
Or the winding rivers be red;
They banish our anger forever
When they laurel the graves of our dead!
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment-day;
Love and tears for the Blue,
Tears and love for the Gray.

Francis Miles Finch's
This series began in The Times-Dispatch Sunday, October 11, 1903. One is published each day.

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